

Application No. 10/748,411
Response dated June 29, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2007

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are presented for consideration. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Erdman does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

By way of the Office Action mailed April 30, 2007, claims 1-9, 12, and 14-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated and thus unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0064113 to Erdman (hereinafter "Erdman"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Erdman is directed to a disposable absorbent article with wetness/dryness indicator. Independent claim 1 of the present invention is directed to an absorbent article including, *inter alia*, an interior article surface and at least one interior graphic disposed on said interior article surface, wherein said at least one interior graphic is an active graphic.

The Applicants assert that Erdman fails to disclose an absorbent article including at least one active interior graphic disposed on an interior article surface. Erdman discloses appearing and disappearing graphics disposed on a back sheet, an absorbent core, or an intermediate material and visible through the back sheet of an absorbent article. At no point does Erdman disclose disposing an active graphic on an interior article surface. Neither does Erdman disclose, teach, or suggest how such an arrangement might be accomplished. Erdman does not disclose or enable how a graphic might be applied to an interior article surface, what inks or dyes might be used to avoid transfer to the wearer's skin, etc. Disposing a graphic on the interior article surface as in the present application allows the graphic to be more readily viewable than it would be when attempting to view it through a potentially semi-opaque article liner as proposed by Erdman.

Similarly, independent claims 18, 19, and 24 include the same element not disclosed by Erdman.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 18, 19, and 24 are patentable over Erdman. Moreover, dependent claims 1-17 and 20-23, which all eventually depend from independent claims 1 or 19, are also accordingly patentable over Erdman.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

< **Erdman does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.**

By way of the Office Action mailed April 30, 2007, claims 10, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made and thus unpatentable over Erdman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the same reasons just discussed for the independent claims, upon which these dependent claims depend, these dependent claims cannot be rendered obvious by Erdman.

Thus, the rejection of dependent claims 10, 11, and 13 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

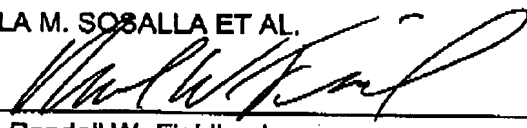
Please charge any prosecution fees that are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: (920) 721-8863.

Respectfully submitted,

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